GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2609
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
DECLINE IN SEX RATIO
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA;SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent census revealed alarming decline in the sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for this decline;

(c) whether the Government propose to work out any action plan to reverse the alarming sex ratio;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) : As per population census 2001, the sex ratio has declined in the age group (0-6) at all India level in 2001 compared to that of 1991. The information showing sex ratio in all States/UTs in 1991 and 2001 is enclosed at Annexure 1.

(c) to (e) : There are many socio-economic reasons for declining sex ratio in the age group, the foremost among them being the practice of dowry, son-preference and neglect of girl child. However, this Ministry is currently implementing Reproductive and Child Health Programme since 1997 for Mother and Child Care Services with special emphasis on quality of Primary Health Care and client satisfaction which will prevent the mortality of female child and high maternal mortality.

Besides, to discourage the practice of female foeticide, the Government of India has enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The implementation of the PNDT Act rests with the States/UTs.

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaigns to make the public and service providers aware of the provision of the Act..

The State/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organizationsgiving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. After the Census 2001 figures were available, letters have been addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs to give focused attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organized at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. National Level Non-Governmental Organisationshave been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. In December, 2000 the Department of FamilyWelfare has written letters to 82 Mother NGOs to directthe field NGOsto generate within their jurisdiction, awareness and public opinion against the malpractice of selective abortion.

The co-operation of the NGOs has also been elicited in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name andaddress of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detecting registered/unregistered clinics.

ANNEXURE-I

Sex Ratio (Female per thousand males)
In the age group (0-6)

India and State/Union territory	1991	2001

INDIA	945	927
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	937
Himachal Pradesh	951	897
Punjab	875	793
Chandigarh	899	845
Uttaranchal	948	906
Haryana	879	820
Delhi	915	865
Rajasthan	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	927	916
Bihar	953	938
Sikkim	965	986
Arunachal Pradesh	982	961
Nagaland	993	975
Manipur	974	961
Mizoram	969	971
Tripura	967	975
Meghalaya	986	975
Assam	975	964
West Bengal	967	963
Jharkhand	979	966
Orissa	967	950
Chhatisgarh	984	975
Madhya Pradesh	941	929
Gujarat	928	878
Daman & Diu	958	925
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1013	973
Maharashtra	946	917
Andhra Pradesh	975	964
Karnataka	960	949
Goa	964	933
Lakshadweep	941	974
Kerala	958	963
Tamil Nadu	948	939
Pondicherry	963	958
Andaman & Nicobar	973	965

Source: Census of India Provisional Population Totals Paper 1 of 2001